

## Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 242329

TOSEC 682, FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN

FOLLOWING REPEAT LISBON 4719 ACTION DEPT INFO NATO USCINCEUR DIA  
OCT 31ST

QUOTE

UNCLAS LISBON 4719

EUCOM FOR POLAD

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, PO, NATO

SUBJ: LISBON PRESS TREATMENT OF POSTPONEMENT ROME NPG MEETING

1. BOTH LISBON MORNING NEWSPAPERS OCTOBER 31 CARRIED  
SHORT IDENTICAL INSIDE NEWS ACCOUNTS BASED ON REUTERS

STORY OUT OF BRUSSELS REGARDING POSTPONEMENT OF ROME  
NPG MEETING ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER 7.  
SPECULATIVE HEADLINES IN BOTH PAPERS SUGGEST THAT USG  
LACK OF CONFIDENCE IN PORTUGAL BECAUSE OF COMMUNISTS IN  
GOVERNMENT AT ROOT OF POSTPONEMENT DECISION.

2. REUTERS FIVE-PARAGRAPH STORY SIMPLY STATES THAT NATO  
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SPOKESMEN HAVE REFUSED TO COMMENT ON SPECULATION THAT

USG FEAR THAT COMMUNISTS IN GOP MIGHT COMPROMISE TOP SECRET ATOMIC INFORMATION MAIN REASON FOR POSTPONEMENT. SPOKESMAN ALLEGEDLY CITED AS REASON FOR DELAY HEAVY WORKLOAD ON MINISTERS OF NATO COUNTRIES, WHO HAVE DECIDED INSTEAD TO DISCUSS NPG MATTERS AT REGULAR DECEMBER NATO SESSION IN BRUSSELS.

3. UNIDENTIFIED NATO FUNCTIONARIES QUOTED AS HAVING SAID IT NOT TO BE RULED OUT THAT USG SEEKING TO POSTPONE ROME MEETING UNTIL AFTER MARCH CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS IN PORTUGAL. SAME SOURCES ALLEGE THERE EXIST NO REASONS TO BELIEVE THAT GOP CANNOT REMAIN PART OF NPG UNTIL ITS TURN EXPIRES AT END OF NEXT YEAR.

4. THERE HAS BEEN NO EDITORIAL COMMENT IN MORNING PAPERS, BUT MAY BE IN UPCOMING EDITION OF ESPRESSO SATURDAY. SCOTT UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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## Message Attributes

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